

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06

SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 SS-15 H-02 NSC-05

/090 W

-----008313 131744Z /47

P 131336Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

UNCLAS NAIROBI 00686

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, KE

SUBJECT: ETHIOPIA NATIONALIZATION OF SINGER SEWING MACHINE

CO.BRANCH

1. MR. B. H. CARLTON, NAIROBI-BASED REPRESENTATIVE OF SINGER COMPANY, REQUESTS EMBASSY IN ADDIS ABABA MAKE PROMPT INQUIRY WITH GOVERNMENT REGARDING NATURE OF COMPENSATION INTENDED FOR NATIONALIZATION OF SINGER'S ETHIOPIAN BRANCH AS ANNOUNCED ON BBC JAN 5. LACKING INDICATION OF INTENT TO REACH FAIR SETTLEMENT, MR. CARLTON WILL REQUEST EMBASSY TO MAKE STRONG, FORMAL PROTEST, INCLUDING REFERENCE TO UNWARRANTED HASTE AND LACK OF ADVANCE NOTICE IN TAKEOVER.

2. NOV. 77 ESTIMATE OF BRANCH ASSETS (DLR. VALUE) FOLLOWS:
CASH (51,000), RECEIVABLES (408,000), INVENTORIES (534,125),
INVENTORY IN TRANSIT (494,076,) GROSS FIXED ASSETS (56,000),
PREPAYMENTS TO TRANSIT AGENTS (109,000), LESS LIABILITIES
TO CUSTOMS, ETC. (30,000). TOTAL (1,622,201).

3. MR. CARLTON ALSO REQUESTS EMBASSY ADVICE/ASSISTANCE IN
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DETERMINING WHAT CAN BE DONE TO PROTECT/REMOVE USAGE OF SINGER TRADEMARK AND TO CANCEL POWER OF ATTORNEY OF ABDULAHI ADOUS, ACTING GENERAL MANAGER, TO ACT ON CORPORATE BEHALF.

4. MR. CARLTON ANXIOUS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AS REQUIRED, BUT IS RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS MATTER BY PHONE.

5. FOR DJIBOUTI : BULK OF INVENTORY IN TRANSIT ABOVE

BELIEVED TO BE IN HANDS OF DJIBOUTI PORT AUTHORITES. MR. CARLTON INTENDS TO INTERRUPT SHIPMENT OF THESE GOODS CONSIGNIED TO ETHIOPIAN BRANCH IF POSSIBLE. MR. CARLTON WOULD LIKE ADVICE ON LEGAL MEANS AVAILABLE TO IMPOUND THESE SHIPMENTS UNTIL COURT DECISION CAN BE OBTAINED. KENYA GENERAL MANAGER (FORMER ETHIOPIAN GENERAL MANAGER), BERHANU MULETA, IS ATTEMPTING TO COME TO DJIBOUTI ASAP TO INVESTIGATE MATTER. THEY INTEND TO RETAIN LOCAL LEGAL COUNSEL AS NECESSARY. ALL DOCUMENTS SAID TO BE WITH DEEPAK TRADERS.

DESCRIPTION OF GOODS (COUNTRY OF ORIGIN, DLS VALUE) FOLLOWS:

SEWING MACHINE TRADLE STANDS(PHILLIPINES 9122), SEWING MACHINE MOTORS (JAPAN 65921), RANGES, CABINETS, WASHING MACHINES(ITALY 46542), SEWING MACHINES AND CABINETS (TAIWAN 12625), KNITTING MACHINES AND SPARES (JAPAN 180542), MATSUSHITA TELEVISIONS, STEREOS AND TAPE RECORDERS (JAPAN 58091).

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